

RELOCATORS FOR WOOLLY CONSERVATION

STUDENT NAME:

CLASS:

DATE:



MAMMOTHS BACK FROM EXTINCTION

BREAKING NEWS! For 12,000 years, mammoths were extinct from the face of the Earth. But a week ago, explorers discovered a hidden tundra within a mountain valley in northern Canada that contained a herd of 5,000 mammoths. Mystified by this turn of events, archaeologists investigated the valley and found evidence that Clovis people might have had something to do with this. Dr. Alexis Montoya stated, "The art we found in caves next to the valley are astounding! They illustrate that the Clovis people foresaw the woolly mammoth's extinction ... so they created a haven for the mammoths. And it has remained untouched for thousands of years!"

Other archaeologists agree with Montoya's statement after locating Clovis spear points near the archaic stone wall built around the borders of the valley.

Now, biologists and wildlife enthusiasts are scrambling to see these prehistoric elephants that our ancestors protected. "I feel like I have set foot in Jurassic Park ... only it's the Pleistocene Period with the gigantic beasts from the Ice Age!" said visitor Willow Adams. The valley, now called "Woolly Haven", is booming with visitors. Game Warden Zeke Morgan has been supervising sight-seers and advises the public to be safe. "These creatures have been untouched by human society for thousands of years.

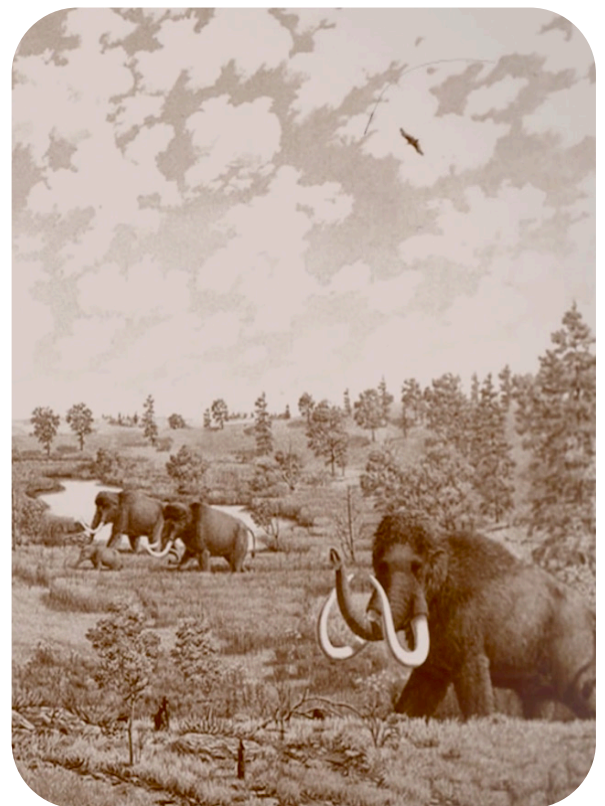
They are wild animals and we wish to keep it that way."

Despite warnings, a group of onlookers snuck past a warden and spooked the mammoths. In a panic, the herd tore off and burst through the stone wall. Now woolly mammoths are flooding out of the valley and into the North American continent. The breach has some of the public in a panic. Some admit they are afraid to witness mammoths in their backyards. Wildlife agencies and the government are now debating how to manage the species. Their decision will be announced in three days time ... ■

Welcome to the woolly mammoth debate, Relocators! The U.S. government needs your help in preparing a wildlife management plan for Woolly Haven’s mammoth herd. Your group believes in growing the mammoth population through translocation, which means transporting wildlife from one area to another area. You realize if the mammoths are kept isolated in Woolly Haven, there will be little opportunity for the population to grow because of the limit to resources. You also understand that mammoths who are roaming the landscape may damage homes or human property, which will cause conflicts between humans and mammoths. As a result, your group believes translocation is a nonlethal way to manage mammoths and is a win-win when it comes to human and mammoth coexistence!

To pitch a great management plan, consider researching about the following:

- What habitats do mammoths live in?
- What locations or natural areas in North America would be suitable for mammoths to live in?
- Where do you propose to move some of the mammoths?
- How would you trap or capture the mammoths?
- How would you move the mammoths?
- Would you have to move mammoths together or solitarily?
- When would you translocate them?
- What kind of team, resources, or equipment would you need for the translocation?
- What tools could you use to track and evaluate how the translocated mammoths are doing in their new habitats?
- What kinds of damages could mammoths cause?
- How would translocation spare people from this?



On a separate sheet of paper or on your computer, record your findings. Then share your discoveries with your team members. As a group, discuss and create a slideshow presentation on how your group would manage the woolly mammoth herd. But plan your presentation with care ... for your presentation will decide what kind of future the mammoths will have! To capture your audience, be creative with your slideshow and add pictures, artwork, and even sound effects or music. Your group will present your slideshow to the class, which must include your group’s interests and supporting research. Other groups will have different interests and goals, so be prepared to debate with others about your logic and planning. Best of luck to your team!